



College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Location: Griffin, GA

Department: Entomology

Position Announcement:

The Department of Entomology at the University of Georgia is seeking qualified candidates for a Ph.D. graduate student research assistantship in the Controlled Environment Agriculture Integrated Pest Management Lab of Dr. Erich Schoeller. The GRA will be primarily based on the University of Georgia Griffin Campus (<https://www.griffin.uga.edu/>) and will undertake most of the required graduate coursework and research on the Griffin Campus but will start their coursework on the Athens Campus. The Schoeller Lab carries out research in biological control, IPM, and production system modification within controlled environments (i.e., indoor vertical farms, greenhouses, and high tunnels). The program's goal is to provide growers with ecologically sound and reliable pest management strategies to maximize the returns of their agricultural enterprises and increase food safety.

The selected candidate is expected to contribute to and expand ongoing research projects in the laboratory, aiming to determine the role of banker plants, supplemental food for natural enemies, LED lighting, and growing systems on the success and efficacy of biological control programs in controlled environments. The selected candidate will be expected to design and execute research trials, collect and analyze data, generate project reports, present findings at research conferences and extension events, and publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals and extension publications. The candidate is expected to work as part of a collaborative team with other graduate and undergraduate students, postdocs, and interns.

Desired Qualifications:

- Master's degree in entomology, biology, ecology, natural resources, crop science, or other related fields.
- Experience in biological control (i.e., using natural enemies and entomopathogenic fungi) and/or insect ecology, hydroponic systems, and horticulture.
- Evidence of excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Experience with data analysis (preferably in SAS) is desirable.
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively in an interdisciplinary team.
- Must have a driver's license or the ability to obtain one within the first semester.

The desired program start date is Spring 2024. To be considered for this position, please forward the following materials to Dr. Erich Schoeller (erich.schoeller@uga.edu) by October 31, 2023. This position will remain open until qualified candidates are identified and selected.

When applying please provide the following information:

- 1) Cover letter outlining your interest and how your background fits the advertised position.
- 2) Resume/CV.
- 3) Unofficial copies of academic transcripts.
- 4) GRE or TOEFL scores (if applicable).
- 5) Contact information for three professional references.

The qualified candidates must meet the minimum requirement of the UGA Department of Entomology and officially apply and be accepted to the program before starting work in Dr. Schoeller's laboratory. Dr. Schoeller will write a support letter for the qualified interviewed candidate. For the requirements, see the UGA's Department of Entomology graduate program website: <https://ent.uga.edu/graduate.html>

The successful candidate should use the following link and officially apply to the program: <https://grad.uga.edu/admissions/apply-now/>